



Habitat Heartbeat

The Newsletter for Habitat for Humanity • Santa Cruz County • Winter 2007

Great Start for the New Year



Congratulations! We did very well in 2006. We built 4 houses and renovated another. Our 4th Annual Golf tournament was a great success as was our participation in the Human Race. The 2006 Architectural Tour set a new record for participation and money raised.

We almost finished the home on Casillas in Watsonville last year. However, we can count that house in this year. We should finish up there sometime in February. We will take a week in March to build out the sleeping loft at the Santa Cruz Homeless Shelter, then it is on to a new build on Belvedere Terrace in Santa Cruz.

And the good news continues. By now most of you are aware that we have been awarded a \$126,000 Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity Grant, designated to help build one home on Belvedere Terrace. An additional

\$19,400 will be provided by Santa Cruz County Lutheran churches and Habitat Santa Cruz will provide the remaining \$48,500. This is the first time we have ever received a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. A lot of effort and planning went into pre-grant organization. Congratulations to all involved, especially Andrea Tolaio, our dedicated Development Director.

We have a new Volunteer Coordinator. Her name is Virginia Villa de Hernandez. If you worked on the Rooney construction project you will remember her as a tireless worker while she, her husband and children completed the sweat-equity requirements for their home. She is very familiar with a construction site and I am confident in her ability to take care of our volunteer needs on the job site. Welcome Virginia.

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A Day in the Life of ...

How your local affiliate works

by Larissa Printzian



It's a typical Monday morning in the Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County office in Aptos. Everyone in the office is busily checking building permits, writing grants, and answering the phone. About 10 o'clock a call comes in. "Hey, you're the guys that provide affordable housing for low-income families", says the voice at the other end. Then comes the question, "How exactly do you do this?"

"Well," responds a volunteer in our office, "We do this through a no-interest mortgage program. Families selected to purchase a Habitat home must complete 500 hours of "sweat equity" - that is, actual labor - on a construction project (if physical labor is not feasible for some family members, other work is available.) Monthly mortgage payments from all families are deposited into a revolving fund which helps build more homes.

By lunchtime our bills are paid, our donors thanked, and volunteer hours logged into the database. This time when the phone rings, a staff member picks it up. A group from a local business would like to schedule a volunteer workday on our site in about two weeks.

While the staff member checks our construction schedule, the group leader asks how we finance our operations. The staff member explains

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Eduardo Hernandez, putting equity into his new home.





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Charles Hilger

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Andrea Tolaio

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Larissa Printzian

CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

Steve Biolsi

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Virginia Villa de Hernandez

...

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Director's Message- Great Start! *Continued from page 1...*



A lot is happening this spring. We are busy working on our first women build. We have a build site identified and a committee organized. We will start fundraising for the home in May. This is a very exciting event. We are going to fund and build a home for a low-income family with women power. That does not mean men can't help, but women are taking the lead on this one. If you are interested in participating in this historic event call Andrea at the office. 831.658.0671.

Finishing up our long list of projects and accomplishments is an exciting multi-house proposal that may develop into the largest project we have ever taken on. I'll have the full story by the time the next Heartbeat is published.

Chuck

Chuck Hilger

Welcome Back Jennifer Parks!

Habitat Santa Cruz is very pleased to have Jennifer Parks back on its Board of Directors. Parks, who instigated our first Golf Tournament in 2003 and taught us how to put a tournament together, also served on the Board that year, but resigned when her family moved away from the county. Now she's back and already working on a vital project. Lucky us!



Board Member Jennifer Parks

A Day in the Life of ...

How your local affiliate works

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that we have a Board of Directors and independent operations and financial systems. Our financial support primarily comes from generous individuals, local businesses and local faith-based organizations. Secondary funding comes from grants. Next, the staff member confirms the groups' volunteer workday. The group leader lets the staff member know that the business will donate funds, as well as volunteer. "Great! Thank you very much for your support," responds the staff member.

Towards the end of the day, we hear that the grant has been submitted and the building permit approved. We are full of hope that another Santa Cruz family will be able to purchase their own home. About ten minutes before closing time, a reporter calls. They want to know about the latest grant we received for our new project and how we are related to Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI).

"Our agreement with Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) includes donating 10% of undesignated donations to HFHI's overseas mission. Over the last 10 years, our affiliate has helped build 9 homes in Guatemala, 7 homes in Nicaragua and 1 home in Armenia. In turn, HFHI provides us with access to organizations that provide in-kind donations and grants. For example, HFHI has a partnership with Whirlpool Corporation through which we can acquire one stove and one refrigerator, at no cost, for each home we build. In addition, HFHI has partnership with various agencies, such as Thrivent Lutheran, who have grant programs. This year we were given the opportunity to apply for a grant from Thrivent for one of the new homes we are building. We are happy to report that Thrivent has selected us as a grant recipient this year." There are a few more questions about our partnerships and then the interview is over.

The files are put away, the computer is turned off and the door is locked. Tomorrow is another chance to raise roofs and raise hope in Santa Cruz County.

Thank you to our community partners!



A Sign ASAP
ABC Supply Co.
Alladin Nursery
Allegrri Electrical
Alpha Epsilon
Archigraphics/AREA Title 54
Bank of America Foundation
Bank of the West
Barry Swenson Builder
Basalite Co
BEA Foundation
Bogner Sheet Metal
CG Foundation
Catherine Moon, New Moon Design Group
Central Coast Endoscopy Center
Central Home Supply
City of Santa Cruz
Coast Commercial Bank
Codiga Family Foundation
Coldwell Banker Northern California
Comerica Charitable Foundation
First Horizon Home Loans
First American Title
Freitas + Freitas, Engineers and Planners, Inc.
GeoWilson Contractors
Geri & David Lieby
Granite Construction Co.
Granite Rock
Haro, Kusunich & Associates, Inc
Hugh Carter, Architects Assn of Santa Cruz
Jacquie Low, Boone and Low Architects
John Holm Drywall
Jeff Stewman, Homestead Design
Juenemann Painting
Linda Burroughs Real Estate
Lindex
Locatelli Concrete
Lopez Roofing
Meseti-Miller Engineering
Mission Floors
Muller Construction



Myles F. Corcoran Construction
Pajaro Lodge No. 90 I.O.O.F
Plantronics
Prospect Heights Neighborhood Group
Rainbow Carpet One
Richard & Mary Solari Charitable Trust
Santa Cruz Mortgage
Santa Cruz Sentinel
Shadowbrook
Sears
Starbucks
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi
T & A Supply
The Furnace Room
The George Ow Family
The Sanctuary Fund
The Skylight Place
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Tim Overton's Concrete
Whirlpool
Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz
World Savings



These Grizzlies really dig their work!

Photo by D.L. Burry

Thank you to our community partners!



Photo by D.L. Barry

Employees of Fresno Grizzlies donated many hours of labor on November 7th, 2006.

Faith-based Organizations:

Center for Conscience Living
Congregational Church Of Soquel
First United Methodist Church
Inner Light Ministries
La Selva Beach Community Church
Religious Society of Friends
Resurrection Catholic Church
Santa Cruz Community Church
Skyland Community Church
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Trinity Presbyterian Church



Special Thanks To:

Jeff Stewman of Homestead Design
for architectural design of
the Rooney homes.

Religious Society of Friends
for their support and cooperation
this past year.

To all the individuals and
faith-based organizations
who provided lunches
for our construction crew.

Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County Joins Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in National Home-Building Alliance

One home will be built in Santa Cruz with \$194,000 commitment from alliance partners

A national home-building alliance between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International will help HfH Santa Cruz build one additional home in the city of Santa Cruz in 2007. On a national level Habitat and Thrivent Financial have committed \$24.5 million to build 355 homes in 43 states in 2007. This is part of a four-year, \$105 million alliance that makes Thrivent Financial Habitat's largest ally.

The additional home in Santa Cruz is part of the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity alliance that brings together thousands of volunteers and financial support from Thrivent Financial. In Santa Cruz, approximately \$194,000 builds one Habitat home, or half of the Belvedere Terrace Duplex, our next project. Thrivent will provide 65% of this amount, Habitat Santa Cruz 25%, and Santa Cruz County Lutheran churches the remaining ten percent.

"We are very excited about working with Thrivent to help additional families



achieve the dream of home ownership," said Chuck Hilger, executive director, Habitat Santa Cruz. "The unprecedented increase in the cost of housing in this county between 1999 and 2004 has caused many more people to become homeless or to live in sub-standard housing."

"Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a Fortune 500 Company with a long track record of generously giving back to local churches and communities, not just Lutherans. I am pleased to volunteer as their local coordinator and support the local project," said Reuben Helick, Habitat Board Member and Chapter Specialist for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in this county.

In 2006, the first year of the alliance, 313 families in 43 states achieved the dream of home ownership - a projected six percent increase in Habitat's U.S. home production. In its second year, the alliance is again increasing Habitat's home construction by working with 256 Habitat affiliates to build the 355 homes.

To learn more, visit www.thriventbuilds.com.

Photo by Robert Cole

About Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a not-for-profit membership organization, has helped nearly 3 million members

achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities.

Thrivent Financial, a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society, sponsors national outreach programs and activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need.

Thrivent Financial has main offices in Minneapolis, Minn., and Appleton, Wis. For more information, visit www.thrivent.com.



Homeowner Becomes Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat Santa Cruz

"I feel very lucky to build my own house and at the same time learn new skills. Habitat has changed my life, and my family's too." These are the words of Virginia Villa de Hernandez, Habitat Santa Cruz' new Volunteer Coordinator, who is also a Habitat homeowner with her husband Eduardo Hernandez. She learned her building skills while putting in "sweat equity" for her home in 2005-06, mastering the new discipline quickly and demonstrating, say her many co-workers, strength, agility, and confidence, even when working on the roof! Virginia continued to work on the site even after her family had fulfilled their 500 hour requirement. She also assisted then Volunteer Coordinator Meghan Green, gaining the qualifications for her new position. We are very happy to have her!

Volunteer Coordinator, Virginia Villa de Hernandez, works on her own home.



One-Hour Habitat Tour

Would you like to learn more about Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County?



Come to a one hour tour of Belvedere Terrace, our newest Habitat Build. This is a great way to get an overview of what Habitat for Humanity does, get a tour of the homes and meet the people we are working with. Please join us! No RSVP necessary - please attend!

Upcoming Tours:

When: Tuesday, April 17
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Saturday, April 21
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

What: Orientations followed by site tour
Where: 176 Belvedere Terrace, Santa Cruz
(cross street N. Branciforte Ave, SantaCruz).

Tours are conducted rain or shine. We will start and end on time. For information, please contact Virginia Villa, Volunteer Coordinator, Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County 831-685-0671 or volunteer@habitatsc.org.

Upcoming Events!

Shadowbrook Annual Fundraising Dinner

Tuesday, March 6

Call (831)475-1511 for reservations

Human Race

Saturday, May 12

To sign up call the Habitat office: (831)685-0671

Architect's Tour

Saturday, May 19

This could be your table!

